



SULLIVAN COUNTY

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Friday, May 23, 2008

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Re: Community Corrections Center / Jail Renovation Project
Update

Sullivan County Delegation,

We are writing today to provide you with an update on the Community Corrections Center/Jail Renovation project. On February 15, 2008, the Commissioners unanimously supported a motion authorizing the Superintendent of the Department of Corrections and the Interim County Administrator to continue developing plans for the construction of a Community Corrections Center and significant infrastructure improvements at the existing correctional facility. It was our understanding that the focus of our continued work on this project would be in the following areas; 1) educating and seeking support from the public, 2) educating and seeking support from the County Delegation and 3) further refinement of the time line and proposed cost estimates for both the construction and financing of the project. The following is a summary of our progress in these areas:

1. Public Education/Support

Supt. Cunningham, John Gramuglia and Greg Chanis (individually and/or as a group) conducted the following presentations to educate the public regarding the CCC/Jail Upgrade project. Meeting dates and participants were as follows:

3/03/08	Judge Cardello
3/04/08	Judge Yazinski (Forum included 30 participants)
3/11/08	Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee - received full endorsement
3/13/08	Judge Arnold
4/08/08	Newport Revite Committee
4/09/08	Sullivan County Towns/City Select Board and City Council members
4/28/08	Sullivan County Delegation
4/30/08	Town of Sunapee public meeting
5/06/08	Claremont Police Chief Scott (to plan presentation to Claremont City Council)
5/07/08	Main Street Claremont/Community Services Committee

All meetings and presentations were received in a positive manner. There were a few questions, which were addressed immediately. Handouts of the presentation were also posted in the Newport Public Library. We have received full endorsement and support from the judges, and Criminal Justice Coordinating

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Committee members and have had terrific feedback from the community committees that we met with.

2. County Delegation Education/Support:

On April 28, 2008, a meeting of the Sullivan County Delegation was held for the specific purpose of presenting the Community Corrections Center/Jail Renovation project proposal. The Delegation was given a detailed presentation, which included supporting comments by Newport District Court Judge Bruce Cardello, Sullivan County Attorney Marc Hathaway, and Sullivan County Sheriff Mike Prozzo. After hearing the presentation and asking many questions, the Delegation voted unanimously in favor of a motion, which supports the project in principle and encourages the County Commissioners to continue work on the project. We have included a copy of the draft minutes from that meeting.

3. Project Timeline/Cost Estimate:

Attached is an updated timeline for the project. It is based on the assumption that final approval for the project is obtained by July 2008. In addition, we have attached an updated cost estimate for both the upgrades to the existing facility and construction of a Community Corrections Center. We have included estimates for two (2) scenarios. The first would be a 44-bed facility and the second would be a 68-bed facility.

In closing, we feel the comprehensive assessment process Sullivan County has gone through during the past several years has clearly identified areas of deficiency, particularly in regards to infrastructure and overcrowding. We believe the proposed plan addresses not only these deficiencies, but takes a progressive approach towards inmate treatment in the hopes of reducing recidivism. We feel strongly that this approach will be the most cost effective and efficient way for the Sullivan County Department of Corrections to operate in the future. The Sullivan County Board of Commission will be meeting on Tuesday, May 27 @ 3:30 to discuss the future of this project.

Superintendent Ross Cunningham

Interim County Administrator Greg Chanis

Enc.